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OGC Has Reviewed


MEMORANDUM

23 July 1951

TO: General Counsel
THROUGH: Comptroller *GBL*
FROM: Finance Division
SUBJECT: Legal Assistance in the Finance Division

1. The increased volume and complexity of business being handled by the Finance Division results in a marked increase in need for legal assistance. This includes formal legal opinions, but we are more concerned with the many small cases which are extremely difficult and time-consuming to present in written form.

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2. Almost every case of agents with  many cases of other cover, involve legal questions regarding retirement, taxes, rights, benefits, etc., which cannot be categorized. Many cases are similar but few are identical. It does not appear possible to anticipate all such cases when the agent's contract is executed, at which time there is a legal review. Most of the questions arise in the settlement of the agent's account, especially if he is being separated.

3. As noted above, the presentation of each case in properly documented written form satisfactory for review and written decision, would constitute a serious burden on the Finance Division. We do not believe it would be satisfactory to simply refer the agent or the case officer to the Legal Staff, since this would result in identical cases being presented by numerous individual case officers. Further, it is probable the Legal Staff would require evidence contained in the official Finance Division file before rendering many opinions.

4. We are advised that the operating offices are greatly increasing the number of agents on their rolls. We believe current business, plus such increases, would warrant the detail of a member of the Legal Staff to work with the Finance Division. It appears to us that this action would result in a saving of time and personnel and would expedite the flow of work.

5. It will be appreciated if you will consider this matter which we would like to discuss in greater detail. We recommend your review of a number of agent cases now on hand which will demonstrate the difficulties of formal presentation.

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Acting Chief, Finance Division

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